

Amendments to the Drawings:

The Applicants submit the attached formal drawings to replace the informal drawings originally filed with the Application. Entry of the attached replacement sheet is respectfully requested.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6, 8-12, and 21 are pending in this application. Claim 7 was previously canceled, claims 13-20 are canceled by this Amendment, and new claim 21 has been added and is the same as previously canceled original claim 7.

The Applicants submit the attached sheet of formal drawings to replace the informal drawings filed with the application. Entry of the replacement sheet is respectfully requested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for granting the telephone interview with Attorney Kaiser on June 14, 2005. In that interview, the rejections of claims 1 and 5 were specifically discussed in relation to U.S. Patent No. 3,930,692. No agreement was reached. However, the Examiner indicated that he would consider amendments that structurally distinguish over the teachings of the '692 patent.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,930,692 (Condon, Jr. et al.). The Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite, among other things, that the second race component includes a flat portion in contact with the raceway portion of the first race component along substantially an entire portion of the raceway portion supporting the plurality of needle rollers. This feature is not taught or suggested by Condon, Jr., et al., wherein no portion of the radial bearing race 17 contacts the raceway portion of the thrust bearing race 31 in the area supporting the plurality of needle rollers 36. By having the second race component contact substantially the entire portion of the raceway portion supporting the rollers (as clearly shown in Figs. 5 and 6), the second race component can support the raceway portion of the first race component to carry the high loads under the needle rollers, while reducing the material costs associated with the bearing, as explicitly described at page 5, lines 1-3 of the Applicants' specification.

For these reasons, independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 21 are allowable.

Dependent claim 5 has also been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 to define additional patentable subject matter. New dependent claim 21 has been added and is the same as canceled original claim 7. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that upon entry of this Amendment, pending claims 1-6, 8-12, and 21 are in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

If the examiner believes an interview, either telephonic or in person, will advance the prosecution of this matter, it is respectfully requested that the examiner get in contact with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Kaiser".

Richard L. Kaiser
Reg. No. 46,158

Docket No.: 091395-9194 (4132-TC-AU)
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
414.271.6560
X:\clientb\091395\9194\F0178918.1